

1588 *Defeat of the Invincible Armada.*

1642 *Tasman discovered NZ.*

THE AUSTRIAN VICEROYS,
1707 TO 1735.

The struggles for power in Europe continued and one of them—the War of the Spanish Succession—had most important results, for it eliminated the Spanish predominance in Naples and substituted Austrian influence.

Sicily went to Savoy but was later returned to Naples. This was a rule by the Austrian Branch of the descendants of Charles V of the Hapsburg family. It was an improvement only by comparison with the Spanish. Even if the ruler's outlook was paternal, his control was absolute.

However, new ideas did flow in from France and throughout the century the effect of Voltaire and the French Encyclopaedists was profound. Enlightened rulers were tempted to try reforms, but the Popes were opposed to such liberalism and the reactionary movement grew strong in Austria.

1707 *Union of Scotland and England.*

THE BOURBONS, 1735 TO 1860—
WITH A FRENCH INTERLUDE.

In 1735 Austria ceded Naples and Sicily to the Spanish Bourbons who were connected with the French Bourbons, and Charles IV, son of Philip V of Spain, was made ruler of the kingdom. With his capable minister, Bernardo Fanucci, he attempted to reform the finances and taxation of Naples, as well as to restrict the feudal privileges.

Under him, Naples became the musical and intellectual centre of Italy. He encouraged the excavations at Herculaneum, and the appreciation of the temples at Paestum doubtlessly had a profound effect on a new type of architecture and art which had evolved—Neo-Classicism, which proved popular during the 19th century.

Unfortunately for Southern Italy, in 1759 his successor Ferdinand I married an Austrian princess, Maria Carolina, and

came very much under her influence. Through her a British officer, Sir John Acton, was employed to rebuild the Neapolitan army and navy.

Ferdinand's reign is marked by the reactionary movement from Austria. Administrative inertia settled over the land, and the kingdom enjoyed a lethargic peace until he attacked the Republic of Rome—a product of the Napoleonic Wars.

Naples, the worst ruled state in Europe, responded to this national movement and was ready to play its part when Mazzini, Cavour and Garibaldi created modern Italy.

Under Championnet, the French Revolutionaries overran the Kingdom of Naples and, in 1799, proclaimed it the Parthenopian Republic. The French were temporarily expelled, but in 1806 set up a kingdom that was ruled by Joseph Bonaparte and Murat. Sicily was never conquered and with its court inclined to England, it served as a good base for British operations—a fact recognised by endowing Nelson with the Dukedom of Brontè.

This occupation had a profound effect on the Italians, for it showed them the advantages of enlightened laws and administration and had awakened a desire to free themselves from foreign rule. The restoration, in 1815, of Ferdinand, lost for the Italians in a large measure, these benefits and substituted the foreign domination of Austria which was reactionary to the point of repression.

Liberal movements in Naples were quashed by the Austrian Army. Such measures as these could have but one result—to drive the opposing forces underground and into employing the traditional Italian methods. Secret societies broke out, the most famous being the Carbonari or Charcoal Burners. These political bodies permeated Italy.

1775 A.D., *American War of Independence.*

1805 A.D., *Battle of Trafalgar.*

1769 A.D., *Cook rediscovers NZ.*

1840 A.D., *NZ a British Colony.*